Earth Observing Systems Data and Information System (EOSDIS) Evolution and Development (EED) – 2

NNG14476256R

Questions and Responses Part IV/

188**. QUESTION:** The DRFP contains no Government Pricing Model or Government Resource Estimate. In order to ensure a more comprehensive and fair evaluation, will the government consider providing the current EED contract labor category descriptions, anticipated hours per contract year for each position, and average (composite) direct labor rates?

ANSWER: The Government will use the Government Pricing Model and will provide offerors with labor category descriptions and anticipated hours per contract year for each position.

189**. QUESTION:** The Procurement Milestone Schedule indicates Contract Award as "2/22/15". For proposal and pricing purposes, please provide an anticipated start date for both the contract start as well as when the first task order for contract phase-in will be issues/authorized so that Phase In and the RTOs can be priced using the appropriate rates for the appropriate time period. Will the Government provide anticipated dates for contract start and phase-in start?

ANSWER: Anticipated contract start and phase in dates will be provided in the RFP Cover letter.

190. **QUESTION:** Per the referenced clause, incidents must be entered into the IRIS database within 24 hours and a safety and health report using IRIS must be submitted on a monthly basis. In June 2014, the NASA IRIS system was disabled and replaced by the new NASA Mishap Information System (NMIS Additionally, NMIS does not accept man-hours worked for the month and does not have the capability to generate a monthly safety report as IRIS did. For paragraph (b) of Clause H.7, should contractors be submitting the Contractor Monthly Statistics Report in place of the IRIS report?

Is it permissible to substitute NMIS for any IRIS reference in Clause H.7? For paragraph (b) of Clause H.7, should contractors be submitting the Contractor Monthly Statistics Report in place of the IRIS report?

ANSWER: Per a change to the RFP, Clause H.7 has been updated to replace IRIS with NIMS. Therefore, the offeror should provide a response in accordance with the revised clause GSFC 52.223-91 Safety and Health – Additional Requirements (JUN 2014).

191. **QUESTION:** The instructions state that "BOEs shall be submitted by both the Prime Offeror and all significant subcontractors and shall comply with the BOE page limitations…" Working as a fully integrated team, we do not expect to assign completely segregated work to significant subcontractors. Therefore, if the Government's intent is that significant subcontractor(s) be required to partially duplicate in their sealed pricing package the BOE for each RTO, we believe it will cause unnecessary repetition.

For the purposes of continuity and ease of the Government's evaluation of the offeror's proposal, would the Government consider allowing the Prime offeror to submit a single set of BOEs at the Prime level that is inclusive of the significant subcontractor efforts/inputs on an RTO? Alternatively, if the same integrated BOE must be provided by both the prime and the significant subcontractor, must both together fall within the collective page limit of 60 pages?

ANSWER: The BOE's shall be submitted by the Prime offeror and all significant subcontractors. A single BOE is unacceptable. The page Limitation of 60 pages is for the total component (prime and significant subcontractors).

192. **Question:** Will the Government consider modifying L.20, Part 2(c) WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE to revise the language for WBS Level 2 to read "Summary of estimated cost plus maximum available award fee by State of Work Section 3.0 Requirements (3.1 Program Management, 3.2 Transition of Engineering Responsibilities, 3.3 Development Engineering, 3.4 Maintenance Engineering, 3.5 System Engineering, 3.6 Science Support, 3.7 Operations Support, 3.8 Studies and Prototyping) as in the Table of Contents? Will the Government also consider carrying over these from the Table of Contents into the Statement of Work Section 3.0 Requirements paragraphs to replace the currently stated WBS numbers within Section 3.0 (for example, replace "WBS 1 – Program Management" with "WBS 3.1 – Program Management"?

ANSWER: The Cost Volume section is being revised to incorporate the Government Pricing Model in the final RFP.

193. **QUESTION:** Section L.23 Enclosure B — EED-2 Representative Task Order 02, Table 1. MRLS and Table 2. ALA Altimeter

These two tables enumerate the number of product types, volume per day, and number of files. Will the Government clarify these numbers? Are these numbers 'compressed' or 'uncompressed'?

ANSWER: No clarification is required. The Offeror will need to make assumptions.

194. **QUESTION:** Section L.23, Enclosure B – EED-2 Representative Task Order 02, Page 2, Paragraph RTO2.1, states that "The contractor is responsible for providing to the DAACs the capabilities for ingest, archive, distribution, metadata and other components necessary to manage these new datasets at the DAACs." Will the Government provide the anticipated number of users along with distribution rates/how much data users will use as well as the anticipated number of data products/granules for the purposes of pricing this RTO?

ANSWER: The government does not know how many users will want a new product from a new mission. The offeror should note all assumptions made in responding to the RTO.

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195. **QUESTION:** Section L.23 Enclosure B – EED-2 Representative Task Order 02, Page 2, Paragraph RTO2.1 states that "The contractor is responsible for providing to the DAACs the capabilities for ingest, archive, distribution, metadata and other components necessary to manage these new datasets at the DAACs." For each DAAC, for how long are non-current versions of products required to be held on some form of storage media?

ANSWER: The EOS requirement in general is that once a version of a product has completed reprocessing, the earlier product must be deleted within 6 months.

196. **QUESTION:** L.23 Enclosure B — EED-2 Representative Task Order 02, Page 2, Paragraph RTO2.1.1 states that the contractor shall support the integration of the new instruments' data into EOSDIS. Since there will be additional capacity requirements associated with the new missions described in RTO 2, is it correct that all engineering, analysis, integration, and deployment activities associated with this capacity, as well as procurement of equipment (ODCs) to provide the capacity, will be priced as part of RTO 2 across the life of the mission?

ANSWER: Since the Government will be using the Government Pricing Model, the RTOs will not be priced for evaluation purposes.

197. **QUESTION:** The incumbent is strongly advantaged given that the Mission Suitability score takes into account the analysis of the proposed RTO costs. Cost is already evaluated separately as part of the cost evaluation factor described in M.4. In accordance with NFS 1815.305(a)(1)(B), the offeror's prices may be adjusted to a probable cost based on the Government's evaluation. Furthermore, the incumbent is strongly advantaged in developing the cost estimate associated with RTO 1, which is the work that the incumbent is currently performing.

Will the Government consider eliminating the punitive evaluation language associated with evaluation of RTO costs as part of the Mission Suitability factor? For instance, currently in M.3.3, the RFP indicates "The Mission Suitability evaluation will include the results of any cost realism analysis. The realism of proposed costs may significantly affect the Offeror's Mission Suitability Score."

ANSWER: The RTO's will not be evaluated for cost now that the Government is implementing using the Government Pricing Model.

198. **QUESTION:** Section D.2 1852.245-74, Identification and Marking of Government Equipment (Jan 2011), of the RFP provides details of requirements for marking Government Equipment, including use of Data Matrix Identification Symbols.

Will the provided GFP be marked in accordance with these requirements prior to receipt by the EED2 Contractor? If not, will the EED-2 Contractor be required to re-tag and mark all GFP in accordance with these requirements or will commonly-used NASA ECN, 1-dimensional barcode tags be acceptable for marking GFP?

ANSWER: All equipment on the current EED contract has NASA tags. If this equipment is reused on the EED-2 contract, it would be transferred to the Government from the incumbent then to the new contractor.

199. **QUESTION:** Attachment D, Government Furnished Property, provides a list of property that the Government is making available for the performance of the EED-2 contract that includes software. Some of the software items listed are products that many organizations have replaced with newer technologies. Will the Government clarify which software tools are still in use today on the contract?

ANSWER: The Government will release an update to the GFP list that will have all property no longer licensed, excessed or removed. Please refer to the latest document on the EED-2 Technical Reference Library.

200. **QUESTION:** In Section L.23 Enclosure A – EED-2 Representative Task Order 01 Paragraph RTO2.1.2 states "Browse data shall be provided separate to this task via the Global Image Browse System on a daily basis." Whereas in Paragraph RTO2.1.5 states "This plan shall include descriptions of the design approach for […] providing image browse products, where available, to the Global Image Browse System, […]." Please clarify the requirements of this task relevant to designing and integrating an interface to GIBS for the new mission.

Since these statements seem to be in conflict with one another, will the Government please clarify the requirements of this task relevant to designing and integrating an interface to GIBS for the new mission?

ANSWER: The requirements are not in conflict with each other. In RTO2.1.2 The contractor must ensure that the data from the new missions is searchable and orderable as stated in RTO2.1.2. In our current, search and order systems (ECHO and Worldview) we rely on metadata and browse data directly associated with the actual sensor data to support our tools. New missions often have different ways of constructing data, metadata and browse data from previous missions. The task is responsible for full lifecycle support for all of the products that form new datasets.

201**. QUESTION:** Document 563-EED-011 (Release 8.2 Transition Approach for the EED Contract) mentions a link to the EMD Baseline Information System (EBIS). However, when we attempt to use the link, it does not appear to work. Is there a working link to the EBIS that the Government can provide?

ANSWER: The document is 563-EED-001, but there is no mention of EBIS in the document posted to the EED-2 Technical Reference Library. The EBIS is not a public website. Access is controlled through firewall rules because there is security-sensitive information posted there.

202. **QUESTION:** In the files related to EED Task 15, Common Metadata Repository, we observed that the incumbent contractor is using tools that were not listed as Government Furnished Property. Will the Government provide licensing information for these tools and include them in an amended list of EED-2 Government Furnished Property?

ANSWER: The property that will be in place at the end of the EED contract is not completely known at this time. The tools used at this time may or may not be in use at the end of contract. For transition, the offeror would be responsible for learning the development life-cycle for CMR, which would be similar for what we do with ECHO currently and a straightforward property transfer from the incumbent to Government to new-awardee. The government will list any items purchased for use by the incumbent for Task 15 as of the date of production of the property list, however, it should be recognized that this information may change between now and the end of the contract.

203. **QUESTION:** The Statement of Work (SOW) contains no indication of the amount of work per SOW element. The Government has only asked offerors to provide staffing estimates for the Representative Task Orders. Will the Government provide a total staff requirement so that we can respond appropriately to the Management Approach requirement for a hiring plan?

ANSWER: The Government estimated hours is provided in the Government Pricing Model.

204. **QUESTION:** Will the Government provide per rack power requirements?

ANSWER: The Government has provided power requirements for the existing Riverdale facility. Per rack measurements can be reasonably estimated using the PVC/VATC/EDF hardware diagrams.

205. **QUESTION:** RTO2.1.5 states "the plan shall […] describe requirements for new computing hardware necessary to augment existing system […]."

 (a) Is the offeror allowed to propose partial re-use of existing hardware to meet these requirements? (b) If the answer to (a) is yes, will the Government please provide an estimate of the available hardware resources that would be available for such re-use?

ANSWER: Yes the offeror is allowed to propose partial re-use of existing hardware to meet these requirements. No, the contractor should propose an approach and assumptions to provide a solution based on the information provided in the RTO.

206. **QUESTION:** Having reviewed the TOs published from the existing (current) contract, it appears that hardware purchases are typically performed under the "core" Task Order (TO2), even when the accompanying work is performed under a different TO. For example, TO5 provides ICEBridge support, but disk and controllers for ICEBridge were purchase under TO2.

Please confirm, therefore, that any hardware associated with RTO#2 will be purchased, configured, and installed using both labor and ODCs provided for by RTO#2.

ANSWER: COTS purchases should be included in the response to the RTO.

207. **QUESTION:** Will the Government consider providing a realistically sized plug number for ODCS, especially for RTO#1? This will level the playing field given that the incumbent contractor has had ample time to consider all of the information that has not yet been fully provided to the bidders regarding license, equipment purchase dates, etc.

ANSWER: No. A plug number will not be provided for RTO1 but the Government will provide a plug number for Travel and Materials for each year of the contract in Exhibit 1A.

208. **QUESTION:** Page 7, Section 1.4 states "The EED-2 contractor is responsible for providing a suitable data center environment, providing required power and cooling, establishing the required network connectivity with GSFC […]". However, on page 14 in Section 3.3.1 the document states "Upon contract award, the EED-2 contractor shall deploy staff into the EED contractor's development facilities for training, during the period in which the EED-2 contractor is preparing their EED-2 facilities and the Government is establishing network connectivity with the EED-2 facility." These two statements appear contradictory in terms of who is responsible for establishing network connectivity between the EED-2 facility and GSFC.

Please clarify what type of network connectivity the Government intends to provide, and the driving requirement for this direct link during EED-2 operations. Is this network link GFE to EED-2?

ANSWER: Since the Draft Transition Plan was written, it has been determined that the optimal solution to achieving network connectivity to a contractor facility is for the contractor to procure internet connectivity through an ISP and then work with the government to configure secure connectivity with standard server/firewall capabilities. This approach should be assumed in the transition to a new contractor facility.

211. **QUESTION:** Section L.19.3 Subfactor B – Management Approach The second paragraph of instructions for the Management Approach begins with statements regarding Significant Subcontractors and goes on to list four numbered requirements. The paragraph ends with instructions that "The offeror shall discuss its plans for addressing any problems that arise as a result of the proposed organization structure or poor and/or non-performance of subcontracted portions of the contract."

Do these four enumerated requirements apply only to Significant Subcontractors or do they apply to all proposed subcontractors whether or not they are significant? Is the final instruction in this paragraph to be applied only to Significant Subcontractors, or to all subcontractors?

ANSWER: The four enumerated requirements apply only to Significant Subcontractors. The final instruction in the paragraph is to be applied to all subcontractors.

210. **QUESTION:** Does the Government intend for the desktop and/or laptop computers purchased for the EED-2 contract staff to become contractor acquired GFE or will this equipment remain property of the Contractor throughout the life of the contract?

ANSWER: Desktops/laptops that are needed to perform the work are to be GFE.

211. **QUESTION:** If the equipment is contractor acquired GFE, will the equipment in use by the current EED contractor be available for use by the successful EED-2 offeror and is this equipment in need of immediate refresh?

ANSWER: The desktops/laptops that are used by the incumbent would transfer back to the government then to the new contract as GFE at some point after contract award. This equipment is listed in the Government Furnished Property list with purchase acquisition dates. It would be up to the vendor to determine a refresh schedule.